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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

On January 18, AVRL was pleased to host a programme at the Wolfville Library featuring the author/illustrator team of Ron and Sandra Lightburn. They read and discussed their children's book *Driftwood Cove*, and supplemented their session with a slide presentation.

A coffee party and Home Library Service information morning was held at the Wolfville Library on February 10. This was an opportunity to promote the service, honour volunteers, and meet

the new Co-ordinator of the Wolfville programme, Gisela Westphalen. Claudia Tugwell has resigned as Co-ordinator of the programme, a position to which she has been dedicated for more than a decade.

Members of the West Hants Historical Society were on hand at the Windsor Library on February 12 to a host a "Genealogy Evening". Both beginners and experts in tracing their family roots were invited to this event.

AVRL has recently revised and revamped its Branch Manual. Since training in MultiLIS procedures for branch staff began several years ago, various instruction booklets and handouts have been created as each stage of the process was introduced. This new manual consolidates these procedures as well as AVRL's policies and contact information, and is now in a format which facilitates easy updates.

Middleton, Kingston, and Berwick Libraries have started an after school programme for grades 3-5 once a week. The programme integrates traditional library craft type activities with technology. These sessions are very popular and are usually booked well in advance. The Port Williams Library has also started a similar after school program as well as continuing a series of computer training workshops. This programming is being funded by the CAP committees in these branches and continues much of the activity funded with the LibraryNet program.

The Annapolis Royal, Bridgetown, and Lawrencetown Libraries will be providing similar programming to that above through a HRDC contract. This contract is for a 42 week period, that will hopefully allow for some continuity in the offerings available in those branches. The youth employed under this project will begin by the end of February.

Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

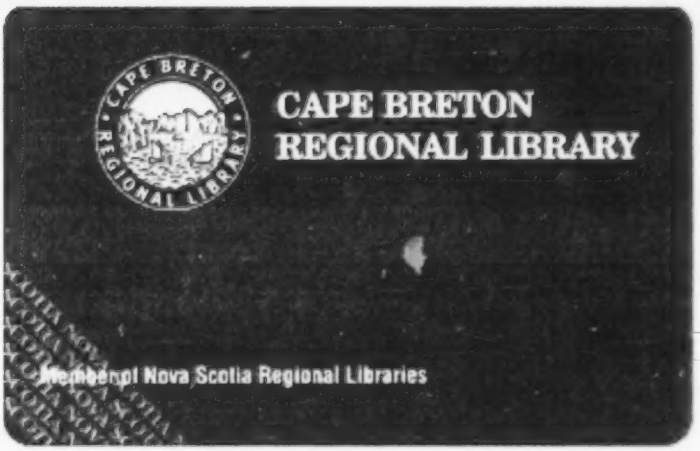
The Cape Breton Regional Library has once again benefitted from the generosity of a local community group. The Dominion Hawks Club donated a TV/VCR combination set to the Dominion Library Branch. The children who attend Pre-school and Saturday story-time in Dominion can now watch some of the wonderful children's titles held at the Cape Breton Regional Library. The staff is very pleased to be able to incorporate videos into the story-times, and feel that this addition enhances the programme that they are able to offer.

And the snow!! This winter is really making us get up off our couches to shovel–but that's good exercise, right! So far the weather has only played havoc with the schedule of Adult Programmes on one occasion. "Household Budgets" had to be rescheduled for February 13, 2001. There are some very interesting adult programmes lined-up this year, such as Travel

Tips, Beginning Astronomy, Massage Therapy, and Spring Cleaning. These sessions have been well attended so far, and CBRL has received positive comments from staff and patron alike. The schedule of adult programmes continues until the middle of April and is available on the web site at **www.cbrl.ns.ca**.

March is Library Card Month @ the Cape Breton Regional Library

In March, the Cape Breton Regional Library is holding the third annual Library Card Month. During this time, the library, in partnership with the Cape Breton Post, will be holding special events and promotions to highlight the wealth of information available from local libraries. The goal for Library Card Month this year for new members and re-registrations is 1300.



Library Card Month is especially important this year, as the Cape Breton Regional Library begins to implement automated circulation in March. Besides recruiting new members to the library, current members who have not received their new plastic library card are being asked to switch from their paper ones. With this promotion, circulation desk staff will be especially busy over the next while!

For the first time in the region, Infotrac will be available from both the library computers and home computers with a valid library card. This is a wonderful added feature that may attract new library members and past members who have strayed to at-home only computer use.

Cumberland Regional Library (CURL)

A snow filled February did not prevent activities from taking place in the libraries across Cumberland County. Here is a sample: Coordinator Donna Morse set up a display in the

Amherst Branch focusing on Black Heritage Month, featuring information on historical and living black Nova Scotians; Springhill has become the centre for an active rug hooking group, which has met on a weekly basis for the past month, and Valentine's Day craft-making sessions were offered to both children and adults at the Amherst branch.

Now preparations are underway to start income tax clinics. Volunteers are being organized to offer tax help for low income individuals.

Halifax Regional Library (HRL)

e-branch Coming Soon!

Coming this March, Halifax Regional Library will be launching its new and improved website, *e-branch*. Halifax Regional Library's new online branch offers a convenient alternative for individuals who find it difficult to visit a physical branch. Saving library users time and offering added convenience, e-branch works with every schedule, making services and resources available when patrons need them - library service anytime.

Visitors to HRL's *e-branch* will be able to register for a library card online, check the library's collection and reserve the books they want from home or office, as well as access a range of other features. Through the *Readers Café*, patrons can gather ideas on what to read next, suggest a title for the library to purchase, review a book online, access best-seller lists and join e-branch's online book club.

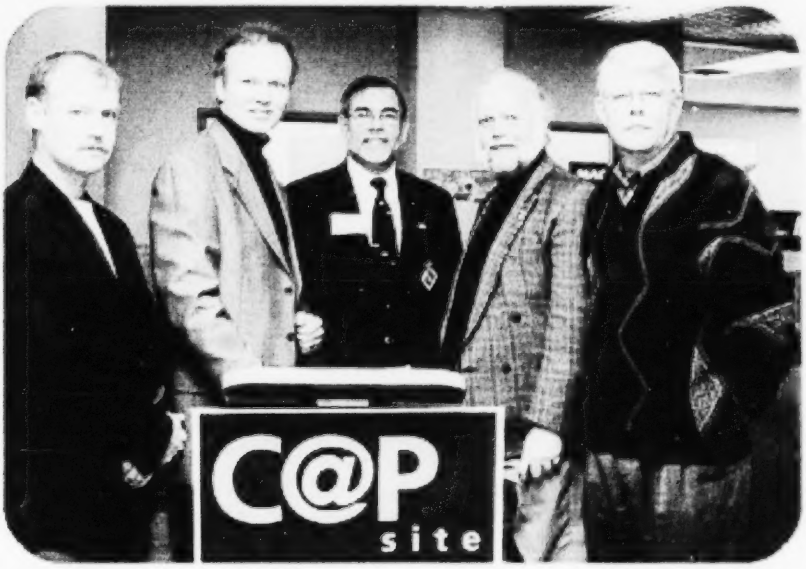
With WebPAC up and running, patrons will be able to search the catalogue with a simple point and click through the collection and request the items be sent to their closest branch. Users will be able to find an article on topics from health and wellness to parenting, with easy access to InfoTrac. With a click to *Ask a Librarian*, patrons can ask questions online. The *What's New* section will include all the news on upcoming events and programs the Library has to offer.

In partnership with FirstClass Systems Corporation the Halifax Regional Library is pleased to offer e-Learning opportunities. From home or office, e-branch users will be able to enroll in online self study courses in technology, home computing, professional development and more. Watch for more news on e-branch and our new URL in upcoming issues of the Halifax Regional Library Guide.

Sackville CAP Site Opening

The Sackville CAP Association and community partners, Sackville Public Library, Cobequid Community Health Board, Sackville Seniors Advisory Council, and Sackville High School welcomed the public to the official opening of the Sackville CAP Site on Saturday, February

17. The Sackville CAP Site has four free public computer access points in the community providing ease and convenience for all residents - Sackville High School library, the Cobequid Community Health Board office located in the Cobequid Multi-service centre, Silver and Gold Seniors Centre in the Downsview Mall, and Sackville Public Library. Residents of the busy Sackville area will be able to access the Internet, use e-mail, word processing applications and undergo computer training. Check out the Sackville CAP Site **www.chebucto.ns.ca/Sackville**.



Barry Barnet, MLA, Sackville-Beaver Bank; Geoff Regan, MP representing Industry Canada; Bill Gard, Chair, Sackville CAP Association; Councillor Robert Harvey, Chair, Halifax Regional Library Board and John Holm, MLA, Sackville-Cobequid at the official opening of the Sackville CAP Site held February 17 at the Sackville Public Library.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

The recent start of two projects has seen the filling of four new positions here at PARL. The Antigonish Reading and Information Literacy Project continues to proceed with the selection of Debbie Johnson as Community Information Services Trainer. Debbie's background in Public Relations and employment with the Nova Scotia Museum will bring much insight to the promotion and marketing of this preschool initiative. Becky Alexander will be the new Summer Reading Programme Coordinator this year. Always popular, the project will begin on April 1, two months earlier than past years. Assisting Becky with the promotion and creation of reading activities based on this year's theme, *Don't Bug Me, I'm Reading*, will be Brandi Bennett and Melissa Barron. They will be taking their travelling road show to the eager children of the seven branches as soon as school gets out in June.

After the success of last year's Adopt A Library Literacy Program and Constable John Kennedy's involvement with it, PARL anticipates another great season. The grand opening of

the new Rural Access site will be March 18. Located at East Antigonish in the Monastery School, it marks the beginning of Rural Access Services to the community, the result of a year long outreach effort by the Books By Mail staff and the Antigonish County Recreation Department. To celebrate this event, an open house will be held March 7. The site will have two library express computers, a book deposit, and information about PARL services.

Access to information via the Internet continues to grow in importance in the region as seen in the completion of two historic websites, *War Cenotaphs of Pictou and Antigonish Counties* and *The Samson*. The sites and the work of PARL staff members Jolene Shaw and Fern Macdonald, who compiled and designed the sites, will be officially recognized in an unveiling ceremony on March 20. Both sites can be viewed at **www.parl.ns.ca**.

Children's author Elaine Hogg will be in the New Glasgow Programme Room April 11 to read from her book *Remembering Honey*. The grade four and five classes of the Walter Duggan Elementary School will learn valuable lessons in dealing with the loss of a loved family pet and grieving. Elaine will also be making herself available between readings to chat with members of the Pictou County Writer's Group and share her knowledge of the publishing world. On May 2 PARL will host journalist, poet, and playwright, Harry Thurston. He will be reading from his latest book, *If Men Lived on Earth*. In this collection of poems, Harry returns to his first passion after a fifteen-year hiatus and explores the varying relationships between humans and how we treat our environment. He recently began a session at Acadia University as Writer in Residence.

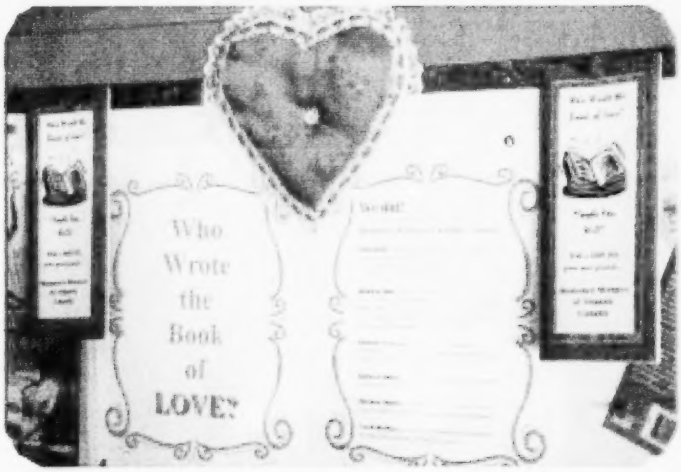
South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)

The DeWolfe Memorial Library in Liverpool is home to the area's newest C@P site. The C@P site is on the library's lower level and has been a very busy spot since it opened.

The site was officially opened January 29, and of course, what's an official opening without a cake? Liverpool artist and member of the C@P Steering Committee, Roger Savage, made the first cut into the C@P cake created by April Backman. Steering Committee member Robert Whitelaw and Carol Doggett, a member of the South Shore Regional Library Board looked on.

Liverpool is taking to the C@P site in a big way. As well as attracting a good number of local dignitaries for its official opening and lots of public use, the site is also being promoted on the town's signs at high visibility locations.

It was all hearts and flowers at SSRL in February as the Romance Writers of Atlantic Canada posed the romantic question, *Who wrote the book of love?* The group had displays in all the branches promoting books by its members and distributing biographies of its well-known writers.



Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL)

Volunteer Orientation

Western Counties Regional Library and the CNIB joined forces on January 29 and hosted a volunteer orientation at regional library headquarters. The orientation was aimed at understanding blindness and vision loss and the challenges visually impaired individuals face. The session, attended by CNIB volunteers and volunteers from the library's Reader's Friend programme, included a segment on the Sighted Guide Technique and Living with Vision Loss. The volunteer orientation was a continuation of the partnership formed between Western Counties Regional Library and the CNIB in the fall of 1999.

To date, 290 visually impaired individuals in Digby, Shelburne, and Yarmouth counties are registered with the CNIB. According to Cathy d'Entremont, Special Needs Department Clerk, the figure reflects a growing increase in the number of requests for large print and talking books at the library. To better serve the needs of these individuals, Cathy has set a goal of having a volunteer assigned to every seniors' complex in the region by the end of next year, a goal achievable with Reader's Friend and CNIB working together.

Gates Computer Lab - 1st Quarter

The Gates Computer Lab, officially opened on September 25, is proving to be an active training centre with 190 programmes attended by 1,116 individuals. Public programmes included: Access, Word (both introduction and advanced), Computer Basics, Introduction to Web Design, Internet, Genealogy, Publisher, and E-Bay. The programmes most in demand were Computer Basics and Introductory Word. The most

popular programmes given by "guest experts" were Genealogy and E-Bay.

Along with scheduled courses, the Gates Computer Lab is also available for group training. Boy Scouts, Home Schoolers, and the Yarmouth Community Net are just a few of the many community groups taking advantage of training time. The lab can be reserved by contacting Virginia Stoddard at 742-2486 or e-mail at vstoddard@nsy.library.ns.ca.

AUTOMATION WORKING GROUP MEETING

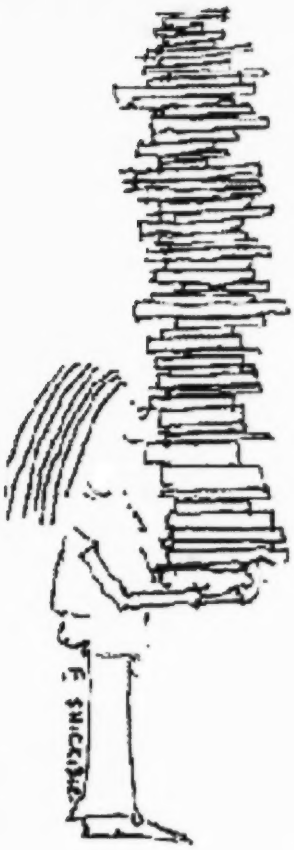
At the Automation Working Group Meeting (AWG) on February 9, the regions' automation staff previewed two new developments, the extranet and the new Web NcompasS interface. Public library staff will now be able to search the extranet for information such as minutes of meetings, upcoming workshops, library events anywhere in Nova Scotia, automation documentation, and much more. The Automation Working Group members provided many suggestions to assist Pamela Perry, Web Site (Extranet) Development Officer, with her work on this project. Library personnel are encouraged to contact their region's Automation Co-ordinator for logins and passwords.

AWG members also suggested that unresolved MultiLIS upgrade problems and their descriptions be readily available for public library staff to view. These problems are now listed under MultiLIS Notices on the extranet.

The recent MultiLIS upgrade has made it possible for Web NcompasS to also upgrade to a new interface. This interface will include some new functionality such as patron initiated holds and loan renewals. This interface should be up and running in March with some design changes introduced in April or May.

THE BOOK: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

(Submitted by Patricia L.Chalmers, Assistant Librarian, University of King's College.)



The University of King's College hosted a conference entitled *The Book: Past, Present and Future* on January 20, 2001. The conference was held to celebrate the opening of the University's new academic building, to be the new home for the Foundation Year Programme (FYP). The FYP emphasizes the reading of the great works of Western civilization, and so the focus of the conference was the role of the printed word in liberal arts education.

Ann Blair, a Professor in the Department of History at Harvard University, is particularly interested in how readers in previous eras coped with the perceived overabundance of books. She studies the explosion of knowledge during the Renaissance, with the rediscovery of classical texts, and the invention of the printing press. In her paper, "Coping with Information Overload, 1300-1700", she drew many parallels between our own time and the past, and demonstrated that we are not the first generation to feel overwhelmed by information.

Robert Fulford, nationally respected Canadian journalist, author and critic, spoke about "The Book in our time: Changes, Challenges and Contradictions". He presented the various paradoxes in Canada today: that the number of alliterate citizens is growing, and yet books flourish; that while most people are indifferent to books, they still believe that literacy leads to economic success. The most successful publishing enterprise in Canada, Harlequin Books, sells books in huge numbers to readers who move in circles untouched by book reviews, author readings, or the efforts of bookstores.

Liss Jeffrey, a Professor with the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology at the University of Toronto, gave a multimedia presentation, "Assaulting Fort Book: The Challenges of Digital Culture." She began by showing us a projection of her computer's desktop. A pen, she remarked, is an instrument, and becomes part of her body, but her desktop is a collaborative environment, a lab providing access to research. In attacking "Fort Book" she was not attacking books as such, but rather our assumption that the only values are necessarily print-based.

The day concluded with a round-table discussion of these themes, chaired by Bertrum MacDonald of Dalhousie's School of Library and Information Studies.

Some Related Reading:
Blair, Ann and Grafton, Anthony. *The transmission of culture in early modern Europe (1990)* http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~amblair/

Fulford, Robert. *The triumph of narrative : storytelling in the age of mass culture (1999)* http://www.robertfulford.com/

Jeffrey, Liss. *The Impact of Technological Change on Canada's Culture and Identity: the Case for Visionary Pragmatism (1998)*

The Impact of Technological Change on Canada's Affirmative Policy Model in the Cultural Industry and New Media Sectors (1999)
http://www.mcluhan.utoronto.ca/liss.html

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES (CASLIS) NEWS

CASLIS-Atlantic Extra Special Event

A number of CASLIS-Atlantic members had the opportunity to attend the programme "Special Libraries: Reports from Near and Far", held January 23, 2001, at the National

Research Council building, 1411 Oxford St., Halifax. During the presentation three professionals from a range of special library settings discussed the latest developments in their libraries. Mary Low, Coordinator of CISTI Information Centres, Ottawa, opened the session by describing the National Research Council of Canada's (NRC) plans to develop community-based technology clusters across Canada. The plan includes the Atlantic Canada initiative, featuring the expansion of NRC's Information Resource Centres in Halifax and St. John's and new Centres in Charlottetown, Fredericton and Sydney. Barbara Stailing, Information Scientist/Librarian, Ocean Nutrition Canada Ltd, Halifax, outlined her role as information provider, which includes such duties as patent searching and research. Ms. Stailing also gave an overview of her role as a member of the Advisory Board CISTI sub-committee, Health Sciences Information.

To wrap up the session, Penny Logan, Co-coordinator, Electronic Bookshelf Project, Medical Society of Nova Scotia, Dartmouth, gave members a virtual tour of the Society's electronic website, which provides health information to Nova Scotians. Ms. Logan's discussion focused on copyright issues, electronic security elements, license negotiation, and training matters. As well, participants took advantage of an offer by Ian Young, Information Specialist, NRC Information Resource Centre in Halifax, to view NRC's local information facilities.

Joint CASLIS/ARMA programme - Effectively Managing Change

On January 30, Margie LeClair, Human Resources Development Consultant, conducted an informal session entitled "Effectively Managing Change". During the programme, sponsored jointly by CASLIS-Atlantic and ARMA (Association of Records Managers and Archivists) Halifax Chapter, members of both professional organizations had the opportunity to explore the nature of change, identify predictable stages of change and learn positive strategies for effectively dealing with changes in the workplace. Ms. LeClair encouraged participants to view change as a constant and positive influence in their lives.

VISUNET CANADA

All regional public, community college, and university libraries in Nova Scotia are participating in a partnership with the CNIB library in Toronto. VISUNET CANADA is an information service for Canadians who are unable to or have difficulty reading print. A license has been signed, and training sessions with Christina Lockerby from the CNIB library were held on February 27 and 28 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and the Truro branch of the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library. Nova Scotia is only the second province to establish such a wide ranging partnership with CNIB. It is

coordinated by the Nova Scotia Provincial Library.

VISUNET CANADA expands access to CNIB library resources to all Nova Scotians who experience difficulties with print material, a much broader audience than previously served. Some of the services include: VISUCAT, access to the CNIB library and its collection of talking books, Braille books, electronic texts, magazines in audio and Braille, and descriptive videos, VISUNEWS, access to 9 English and 4 French Canadian newspapers via telephone or the internet, and VISUTEXT, which offers full text access to a variety of information sources, including encyclopaedias, books, full text magazines, and selected web sites. The target date for implementing this service to the public is May 1. For more information on VISUNET CANADA, check out their web site http://www.cnib.ca/library/visunet/visutext.htm or call Michael Colborne, 424-4852.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (SLIS)

This month our column focuses on the outstanding achievements of our students and recent graduates. While we are rightly proud of the accomplishments of all our students, we think that some deserve special mention. Take the example of Shelley McKibbon (Class of '99), currently a Reference Librarian with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Shelley won the Best New Researcher Paper Award from the Medical Library Association for her paper "Comparing Credentialing Processes Across Professional Associations: A Benchmarking Study."

Shelley presented this paper, co-authored with Marty Adamson, at the annual conference of the Medical Library Association held in Vancouver in 2000. From the Class of 2000, Nadine d'Entremont, winner of the Director's Award for graduating with the highest academic achievement, also won the Olga B. Bishop award for 2000. This award, given by the Access to Government Information Interest Group of the CLA, recognizes the best essay submitted in a national competition. Nadine's paper was titled "The Protection of Privacy: The Hype, the Facts, and the Government's Role", and can be found at: http://www.usask.ca/library/gic/21/dentremont.html.

Another graduate of the Class of 2000, Lou Duggan, was appointed an Associate Fellow with the U.S. National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland. The Fellowship Program prepares information professionals for leadership roles in health sciences librarianship. More recently, one of our first-year students, Christine Davies, won a $3000 (US) American Library Association Scholarship, and a travel award to attend the midwinter ALA meeting in Washington, D.C. These honours came to Christine in

addition to the SLIS Alumni Scholarship, awarded yearly to an excellent incoming student, and made possible by an alumni endowment established to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the School.

Amy Chow, another first-year student, has been awarded a year's free membership in the Canadian Library Association by the CASLIS Atlantic Chapter. A native of Ontario, Amy holds an A.R.C.T. Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music, and a B. Mus. (Music History) from McGill University.

A second-year student, Lisa Wilson, was awarded the 2000/2001 Margaret Williams Trust Fund Award in the amount of $2,000. This award is presented to a "student entering a full-time MLIS programme with preference given to Memorial University graduates, those who received primary and/or secondary schooling in Newfoundland, or those with 2 years of provincial residency". Lisa is a second-year student who holds a B.A. in English, with a minor in Classical Studies from Memorial University.

These noteworthy students represent just some of the wide range of talents and interests among our student body. Congratulations to all our remarkable students and alumni!

Future columns will highlight other projects ongoing at the School. For further information about these or any other SLIS activities and programmes contact the Director, Bertrum MacDonald, at macdonal@is.dal.ca, (902) 494-2472 or visit the web site at: http://www.mgmt.dal.ca/slis.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

Access the World

"Access the World", the Nova Scotia Provincial/Regional Libraries Annual Report 1999-2000, released in January 2001, is now available in pdf format on the NSPL website at http://www.library.ns.ca/regionals/strategic.pdf.

Print copies are available from Barbara Jordan, Tel:902-424-2400, Fax: 902-424-0633 or jordanbj@gov.ns.ca.

Web Awareness

Nova Scotia regional public libraries have entered into a partnership with the Media Awareness Network for delivery of their Web Awareness programme. Orientation sessions have been held in Halifax and Truro; now every regional library has at least one staff person who can present the Web Awareness training modules. The three modules are aimed at library staff, teachers, parents, and anyone who works with children and the internet. The first module, Kids for Sale, covers online marketing to kids and privacy issues; the second, Safe Passage, deals with online safety and offensive and inappropriate content; and the third, Fact or Folly, is concerned with the authentication of online information. For more information, see the Network's web site at http://webawareness.org or call Michael Colborne, 424-4852.

TRAINING NOTES

Automation Training

Automation staff at NSPL attended a training session provided by a DRA representative on January 31 and February 1. Staff learned how to configure the newest version of the Web2 interface. Regional libraries patrons will soon be able place holds and renew books for themselves using Web NcompasS.

Cape Breton Regional Library automation staff received their initial Circulation Training on Feb 29 and March 1. Shirley MacLeod and Mike Purcell will return to Sydney and Glace Bay on March 20 to assist the trainers and branch staff with their first few days of automated circulation. Cape Breton Regional Library will also have Acquisition training in March.

STAFFING NOTES

The Provincial Library is very pleased to announce that Bernadette Kennedy, Manager, Access to Library Holdings Project, Shirley MacLeod, Assistant Automation Specialist, and Elizabeth Parnell, Cataloguer have been made permanent Civil Servants. All three have been term employees. This change ensures that work with regional library automation and the Government Libraries Consolidated Catalogue will continue at the same level and that future plans can now be developed.

HOT HOT TIPS & UPDATES

STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (CLA)

Submitted by Andrea McLellan SLIS ('02) Dalhousie University.
The students of the Dalhousie School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) recently contacted Mijin Kim at CLA in order to form a student chapter. A group of sixteen first year students met in January and formed a steering committee to develop goals and objectives for the chapter.

We brainstormed a variety of potential plans, which reflect our commitment to our school programme, the library profession, and the community. For our fellow students, we are interested in coordinating scholarship information and stimulating student input in our current Brown Bag Lunch series. In order to increase our involvement with library professionals in our region, we would like to explore the possibility of developing a mentoring programme and arrange for demonstrations of electronic resources in different library settings.

In addition, we are interested in becoming involved in community programmes and events, such as the Halifax's annual Word on the Street festival and local literacy programmes. And finally, the CLA Annual Conference 2002, to be held in Halifax, presents the student chapter with an excellent opportunity to both contribute to, and benefit from the wealth of experience that the Association has to offer and we are looking forward to helping out wherever possible. If you are interested in speaking to our chapter, being involved in a Brown Bag Lunch, or providing a tour of your facility, please contact Dyan Perley at dperley@is2.dal.ca.

AGENTS, BOTS AND INTELLIGENT DOTS: THE TECHNOLOGY BEHIND ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT TELECONFERENCE

Questions about creating electronic texts and documents? If so, plan to join us at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, March 23, 2001, for a teleconference featuring D. Scott Brandt aka "Techman." During the teleconference Mr. Brandt will describe the technologies behind various kinds of electronic documents and texts such as mark-up languages, meta-tags and controlled vocabulary, as well as other "techno-text-enhancements" for managing information retrieval of text. To register please contact Bernadette Kennedy at 424-3791 or kennedba@gov.ns.ca by March 20, 2001. Registration is on a first come first serve basis to a maximum of fifty people. Admission is free, so plan to join us on March 23, 2001, 4:00pm - 6pm.

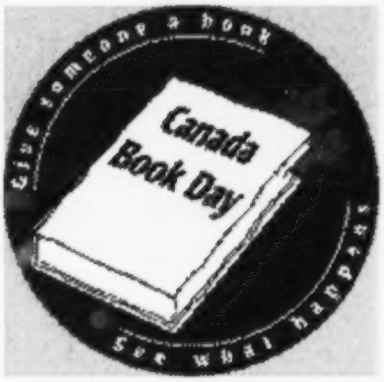
INTERNET DILEMMA: FILTERED OR NON-FILTERED TELECONFERENCE

Why are libraries considering installing Internet filters? How do Internet filters work? What are the legal issues surrounding the use of Internet filters in the United States? The issue of Internet filtering is a concern to all libraries. In Canada some libraries are seeking legal advice to protect themselves against legal liability suits. In the United States debate over the use of Internet filters in libraries continues. Please join us on April 11, 2001, 4:30pm - 6pm, at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library for a look at the current issues surrounding the use of Internet filters in libraries in the United States. Discussion will include a look at the current laws surrounding Internet filtering and the issues leading to the US Congress' decisions regarding the use of filters in libraries, as well as an overview of how filters work and how libraries can best educate their users in appropriate use of the Internet. Details to follow in March. For information please contact Bernadette Kennedy at (902) 424-3791 or kennedba@gov.ns.ca.

INFORMATION RIGHTS WEEK IN CANADA

The Canadian Library Association (CLA) has announced that April 2-9, 2001 will be Information Rights Week in Canada. This will be the seventh annual Information Rights Week, and this year's theme, *Your Information, Your Rights @Your Library*, is selected to focus public attention on libraries' long and respected tradition of protecting the information rights of citizens and to showcase the vast collection of information resources in traditional and new media that is yours to discover at the library. An Information Rights week kit will be available for delivery as of March 1, 2001, at $8.00. Bulk orders of posters are also available, at a cost of $1.00 per poster. For more information, please contact Leacy O'Callaghan-O'Brien at Telephone: (613) 232-9625 ext.307 or e-mail: lobrien@cla.ca. Visit the web site at http://www.cla.ca/top/whatsnew/wnfb1601.htm.

CANADA BOOK DAY, APRIL 23, 2001

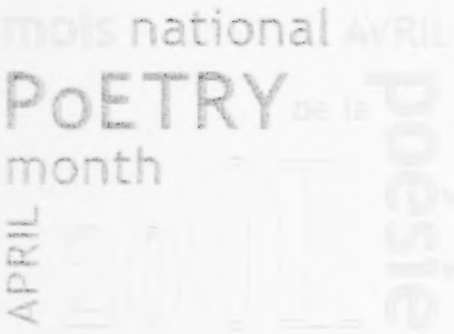


Canada Book Day is a project of The Writers' Trust of Canada to advance and nurture Canadian writers and writing.

There are many organizations, regional, national and international, that are devoted to supporting all aspects of the written word, from poetry to play writing. These organizations can be a great source of information—especially through websites—not just for writers but for anyone interested in learning more about reading, writing and the creation of literature. Visit http://www.canadabookday.com or more information about sponsors, events, and resources.

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH, APRIL 2001

National Poetry Month, sponsored every April will bring together schools, publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, and poets across the country to celebrate poetry and its vital place in Canada's culture. Communities and businesses participate through readings, festivals, book displays, and other events. The Academy of American Poets has collected excellent tips for: teachers, librarians, booksellers, and many examples of successful events are posted on the website at http://www.poets.ca/linktext/npm.htm.



REFERENCE ON THE NET

Here are some more reference questions referred to the Provincial Library by the Regional Public Libraries. They were answered using resources found on the Internet.

Q. Where can I find information on international customs on gift giving?

A. The Centre for Intercultural Learning's E-thologies site at http://www.e-thologies.com which is part of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has this kind of information for some of the countries listed on the site. When you enter the site, select the relevant country at the top of the page and then browse the listed information. You can also click on any of the topics on the left of the page once you have selected a country. For example "Culture" would be the topic to select for cultural information. A search using the Google search engine at http://www.google.com with

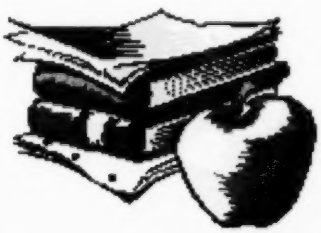
the phrase "international gift giving customs" located an informative article titled *International Gift Giving Protocol* at http://onlineshopping.about.com/shopping/onlineshopping/library/weekly/aa012698.htm on the about.com Internet guide site and another article, *Gift-Giving Abroad: "Don'ts"* at http://www.smartbiz.com/sbs/arts/spe16.htm on the Smartbiz.com site.

Q. Where can I find calendars for events such as Earth Day and Family Literacy Day?

A. The 2001 Calendar of statutory holidays, theme days, weeks and months of national and international heritage at the Canadian Heritage site at http://www.pch.gc.ca/calen/english.htm is useful for finding Canadian holidays and events. To find a specific theme day such as Earth Day, click on search at the top of the page and enter "earth day" in brackets in the search box. This brings up a result titled "Canadian Heritage - Coming Soon" which you can click on to get the calendar for the month which the day is in.

Search engines such as Yahoo at http://www.yahoo.com which have directory style arrangements can be useful in tracking down this type of thing. Yahoo's "Society & Culture" category has a "Holidays and Observances" section which as well as having a long list of holidays and events also has links to more sites arranged in categories such as "Calendars", "Country and Region", and "Month."

LINKed



Weather information abounds on the Internet and this month's Linked column is an attempt to point out some good weather sites which can be used to answer weather related reference questions.

The Meteorological Service of Canada site at http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca as some useful information in The Canadian Climate Normals 1961-1990 section at http://www.cmc.ec.gc.ca/climate/normals/eprovndx.htm. Averages for such things as temperature, precipitation, wind and sunshine for a large number of communities across Canada are arranged by province. Another highlight of this site is the full text fact sheets and brochures on a variety of weather topics at http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/cd/index_e.cfm#facts.

The U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at http://www.noaa.gov s a huge web site with many different sections. It includes a lot of global weather information in these particular sections: The National Hurricane Center at http://www.nhc.noaa.gov has an Historical Information section which has detailed information on hurricanes from 1988 on as well as the deadliest hurricanes from earlier times and known tropical cyclones from the 1800's to 1998. It also gives storm names for 2000 - 2005 and the history of naming hurricanes. Access to this section is located half way down the left side of the main page.

The Global Climate Data & Maps section of the Climate Prediction Center at http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/monitoring_and_data/restworld.html has precipitation and temperature information for all areas of the world going back over a one year period.

The National Climatic Data Center website at http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov has some popular free databases including the Extreme Weather and Climate Events Database at http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/ol/climate/severeweather/extremes.html and the Global Historical Climatology Network at http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/res40.pl?page=ghcn.html. The Extreme Weather and Climate Events Database has historical information on worldwide extreme weather and climate events and The Global Historical Climatology Network has information on global anomalies and trends in temperature and precipitation from 1900 to present. Another database at http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/res40.pl?page=climvisgsod.html has global information in graph form on temperature, precipitation, winds, pressure and snow from 1994 to present for over 8000 worldwide locations.

Weatherbase.com at http://www.weatherbase.com is produced by Canty & Associates. It has average temperatures and precipitation and other climate indicators for 16,434 communities worldwide.

There is a large glossary of weather terms which is part of the about.com Internet guide site at http://weather.about.com/science/weather/library/glossary/blglossary.htm.

The World Meteorological Organization site at http://www.wmo.ch/home.html has a large number of links to meteorological data and organizations involved in meteorological research at http://www.wmo.ch/web/ddbs/Env-data-links.html as well as links to National Meteorological Services of the World which have web sites at http://www.wmo.ch/web-en/member.html.

The Weather Topics section which is on the Librarians' Index to the Internet site at http://lii.org/search/file/weather has links to sites on specific topics including avalanches, el niño, floods, hurricanes, ice, snow, tides and tornadoes.

Web sites which were featured in previous "Linked" columns are now arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at http://www.library.ns.ca/provlib/brochure/refser.html. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at morrisc@gov.ns.ca.

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, two excellent books on reference services are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please send requests via email to Dale MacMillan at inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

Library Association. Information Services Group. Guidelines for reference and information services in public libraries. London: Library Association, c1999. [Call #: Prof. 025 .527 Lib]
This publication is intended to serve as a toolkit for managers who are responsible for providing reference and information services in public libraries. The guidelines provided in this text constitute the Library Association's official policy statement and recommendations on the nature and quality of library provision for reference and information services in public libraries. This book is divided into nine sections which can be used individually, for specific purposes, or together as a structured whole.

Whitlatch, Jo Bell. Evaluating reference services: a practical guide. Chicago: American Library association, 2000. [Call #: Prof. 025 .52 Whi]
In this new guidebook, the author outlines practical methods for evaluating and delivering quality reference service to the technology-savvy library user of today. She uses special techniques and case studies, which detail how to plan an evaluation approach, use research tools to evaluate services and identify needs. The author selects and puts into service resources for specific needs and indicates how to

maintain funding by presenting results in a formalized way.

Credits go to:
Patricia L. Chalmers, Assistant Librarian, University of King's College
Heidi Julien, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University
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